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Report of the African Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, held in Addis Ababa from 9 to 11 April 2014

I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 56/119, on the role, function, periodicity and duration of the United Nations congresses on the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders, the General Assembly decided that each congress should be preceded by regional preparatory meetings.

2. The Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Lessons Learned from United Nations Congresses on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, which met in Bangkok from 15 to 18 August 2006, stressed the importance of regional preparatory meetings as a key preparatory tool for the congresses and as a conduit to incorporate regional concerns and perspectives into their preparation. The Group of Experts noted that, despite globalization and the increasingly transboundary nature of criminality, different regions of the world continued to harbour different concerns, which they wanted to see properly reflected in the consideration of various topics by the congresses (E/CN.15/2007/6, para. 23).

3. In its resolution 67/184, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to facilitate the organization of the regional preparatory meetings for the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and to make available the necessary resources for the participation of the least developed countries in those meetings and in the Thirteenth Congress itself, in accordance with past practice and in consultation with Member States. The Assembly encouraged the relevant United Nations programmes, specialized agencies of the United Nations system and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, as well as other professional organizations, to cooperate with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in the preparations for the Thirteenth Congress.

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4. In that same resolution, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network, to prepare a discussion guide for the regional preparatory meetings for the Thirteenth Congress and for the Congress itself in a timely manner, and invited Member States to be actively involved in that process. The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice considered a draft discussion guide at its twenty-second session. In its resolution 68/185, the Assembly took note with appreciation of the draft discussion guide and requested the Secretary-General to finalize the guide in a timely manner, taking into account the recommendations of the Commission, as well as additional comments and feedback from Member States, in order to enable the regional preparatory meetings for the Thirteenth Congress to be held as early as possible in 2014. The final discussion guide (A/CONF.222/PM.1) was issued in July 2013.

5. In its resolution 67/184, the General Assembly encouraged Governments to undertake preparations for the Thirteenth Congress at an early stage and by all appropriate means, including, where appropriate, the establishment of national preparatory committees. It urged participants in the regional preparatory meetings to examine the substantive items on the agenda and the topics of the workshops of the Thirteenth Congress and to make action-oriented recommendations to serve as a basis for the draft recommendations and conclusions for consideration by the Congress. In its resolution 68/185, the Assembly urged Governments to invite their representatives to examine the agenda items and workshop topics and make action-oriented recommendations and to actively participate in the regional preparatory meetings, where appropriate.

II. Conclusions and recommendations

6. The African Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice agreed that the action-oriented recommendations presented below, reflecting the African perspective, should be considered when preparing the draft declaration to be submitted to the Congress.

7. The Meeting also highlighted that terrorism could not be addressed through security measures alone. Member States were called upon to accompany such measures by preventive plans, including through the media, to eradicate terrorism through a culture of dialogue.

8. The Meeting recommended that Member States should develop policies and programmes to sensitize and educate the general public on trafficking in persons and provide information on how to report that crime.

A. Substantive items and workshops

1. Item 3 of the agenda of the Congress: successes and challenges in implementing comprehensive crime prevention and criminal justice policies and strategies to promote the rule of law at the national and international levels, and to support sustainable development

9. The Meeting underlined the importance of taking into account the specific situation, concerns and challenges faced by Member States in the African region in responding to crime and fostering the rule of law. Limited financial and human resources were available to address the many priorities and demands placed on Member States in the African region. Those included the need to tackle multiple forms of crime affecting the continent, including different forms of drug trafficking, arms trafficking, smuggling of migrants, trafficking in persons, piracy, trafficking in cultural property, illicit trafficking in fauna and flora, poaching, trafficking in game and wildlife trophies, cybercrime, corruption, money-laundering and counterfeiting, including counterfeiting of medicines. The Meeting drew attention to the crime of terrorism and called for the strengthening of relations between States as part of the common fight against that scourge. The control of vast territories and of extensive and porous borders, as well as ongoing or recent experiences of armed conflict, posed additional challenges in different Member States of the region.

10. Recognizing the importance of peace, security, justice and the rule of law as part of an enabling environment for sustainable and equitable development, the Meeting noted that the enhancement of the rule of law was a process that required constant effort and that many Member States in the African region were currently at the stage of streamlining their criminal justice systems with the aim of establishing or improving the rule of law. Engaging actively in the Thirteenth Congress was therefore crucial, taking into account the positive contributions that the Congress was expected to make to national and international efforts to promote the rule of law and development.

11. The Meeting acknowledged the centrality of crime prevention and criminal justice issues for the rule of law in minimizing criminal conduct and the extent of zones in which the rule of law had not yet been firmly established.

12. The Meeting supported the inclusion of specific enabling goals on security, justice and the rule of law as part of the post-2015 development agenda, including crime prevention and criminal justice elements, freedom from violence and good governance. A new indicator on crime prevention and criminal justice should be developed, to be used together with existing human development indicators.

13. Recognizing the importance of evidence-based rule of law, crime prevention and criminal justice reform strategies, the Meeting underlined the need to draw on national data and statistics, disaggregated by age and gender, on crime and victimization.

14. The Meeting recommended that UNODC, in conjunction with relevant regional entities such as the African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, should build on its expertise to develop appropriate indicators and interventions relating to the rule of law, the prevention of crime and violence, and criminal justice. This would enable Member States to evaluate the

impact of their criminal justice policies and strategies for the strengthening of the rule of law and development.

15. The Meeting emphasized that criminal justice systems and reform initiatives should be in compliance with human rights and fundamental freedoms, especially fair trial rights, based on the principle of independence of the judiciary and the presumption of innocence.

16. Given the crucial role of defence lawyers, the Meeting recommended that Member States be encouraged to provide access to legal aid for indigent defendants, in line with the United Nations Principles and Guidelines on Access to Legal Aid in Criminal Justice Systems.

17. The Meeting recommended that criminal justice reform efforts should focus on strengthening institutions and human resources, including by providing necessary equipment and building the capacity of professionals and law enforcement agencies, including police officers, investigators, prosecutors, judges and correctional officers. The establishment and training of specialized law enforcement units to address complex and emerging forms of crime was referred to as a good practice, together with the establishment of forensic laboratories. The computerization of judicial procedures was considered another important aspect of improving the functioning of criminal justice systems, as it could contribute to greater efficiency, transparency and access to justice.

18. Member States in the region were encouraged to include in their national plans measures relating to offenders with special needs, such as women, children, the elderly and the terminally ill, as part of efforts towards the adequate representation of such individuals in the criminal justice system. Good practices in that regard included the use of female police officers or investigators in dealing with women victims of violence, or in controlling crowds when women were among groups of people taking part in demonstrations.

19. Recognizing the high incidence of victimization of women and children, especially with regard to domestic and sexual violence, the Meeting encouraged Member States to collect and analyse data in order to enable criminal justice agencies to identify and respond to those types of crimes and address the needs of victims.

20. The Meeting acknowledged that crime and violence against women and children required a comprehensive approach and joint efforts by the criminal justice system, other sectors of government (such as social and health departments), civil society and the media, in order to provide victims with assistance, protection and access to justice, while addressing the root causes of such crime and violence, which might include unemployment, poverty and family failure, depending on the specific context.

Workshop 1. Role of the United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice in support of effective, fair, humane and accountable criminal justice systems: experiences and lessons learned in meeting the unique needs of women and children, in particular the treatment and social reintegration of offenders

21. The Meeting recommended that Member States share information on good practices by engaging in promising projects to reintegrate ex-prisoners into society and build the capacity of correctional officers with regard to rehabilitation and social reintegration approaches.

22. Recognizing the challenges faced by correctional officers in many Member States in meeting the specific health-care and other needs of women prisoners, including pregnant women and women prisoners with young children, the Meeting invited Member States to adopt relevant policies and measures in line with the 2010 United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules) and United Nations standards and norms applicable to the administration of justice for children. In that regard, the Meeting stressed the importance of separating women prisoners from men and children from adults.

23. Highlighting the need to establish a juvenile justice system focused on the protection of minors in conflict with the law, the Meeting referred to specific challenges such as dealing with unaccompanied migrant children or responding to crimes committed by minors against minors. Member States were invited to promote the use of alternative measures, such as diversion and restorative justice, and to ensure compliance with the principle that deprivation of liberty of children should be used only as a measure of last resort and for the shortest appropriate period of time. They were also invited to avoid, wherever possible, the use of pretrial detention for children and to provide support and services for children deprived of their liberty prior to and after release in order to promote their rehabilitation and reintegration into the community.

24. The Meeting called on Member States and relevant United Nations agencies to collect relevant information concerning children alleged to have, or accused of or recognized as having, infringed the penal law, in particular children deprived of their liberty, so as to improve the administration of juvenile justice.

2. Item 4 of the agenda of the Congress: international cooperation, including at the regional level, to combat transnational organized crime

25. The Meeting recalled the importance of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, the United Nations Convention against Corruption and the legal instruments against terrorism. It encouraged Member States that had not yet done so to ratify those instruments and in particular to give effect to their provisions in practice, taking into consideration the difficulties some Member States in the region were facing, in particular conflicts and economic crises.

26. The Meeting highlighted the need to harmonize legislation at the regional and international levels in order to support more efficient cooperation. It called for efficient international cooperation and the strengthening of bilateral and regional cooperation through the conclusion of bilateral or regional agreements relating to

combating transnational organized crime, for the purposes of exchange of information, mutual legal assistance, extradition, mutual technical assistance and exchange of good practices.

27. The Meeting underscored the need to promote cooperation, in particular the sharing of information about organized criminal groups, with regional and international organizations to strengthen subregional, regional and international cooperation and contribute to sustainable development.

28. The Meeting highlighted the need to address cross-border cooperation and cooperation at border crossing points, by exploring the possibility of facilitating joint control points and establishing joint units along borders to enhance operational cooperation to protect borders and combat criminal groups, terrorism and illicit flows. It encouraged cooperation through existing regional cooperation mechanisms and encouraged such mechanisms and/or organizations to share information within their membership but also among regions.

29. The conclusion of memorandums of understanding or bilateral agreements was also highlighted for its potential in dealing effectively with terrorism and piracy.

30. The Meeting recommended that Member States in the African region be called upon to cooperate with the African Police Cooperation Organization (AFRIPOL), which had been established under the Common African Defence and Security Policy of the African Union. The Meeting called upon UNODC to extend technical and scientific assistance to AFRIPOL to strengthen regional and international cooperation.

31. The Meeting highlighted regional practices in Africa which supported international cooperation to combat transnational organized crime. Member States mentioned initiatives such as the Southern African Development Community, the East African Community, the Southern African Regional Police Chiefs Cooperation Organization, the Eastern African Police Chiefs Cooperation Organization, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Economic Community of Central African States, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, the Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries, the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region and the League of Arab States (LAS). In particular, the West Africa Coast Initiative was mentioned as a good practice with regard to taking a multi-stakeholder approach. UNODC, the United Nations Office for West Africa, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) had set up the Initiative to work in synergy to support the implementation of the ECOWAS regional action plan to address the growing problem of illicit drug trafficking, organized crime and drug abuse in West Africa. One element of the Initiative, the establishment of a transnational organized crime unit in each country (Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea Bissau, Liberia and Sierra Leone), was highlighted. The national inter-agency units gathered and analysed information, and developed operational intelligence to support its lead investigative role in the most complex crime cases. UNODC, the Police Division of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and INTERPOL provided advisory support and mentoring to selected and vetted national staff.

32. The Meeting invited UNODC and all relevant international organizations to support the African Union in the implementation of its Plan of Action on Drug

Control (2013-2017) to contribute to global efforts to combat transnational organized crime.

33. The Meeting underscored the discrepancy between the capacity of transnational organized criminal groups and the financial and human resources available to national authorities in charge of dealing with transnational organized crime. In particular, the capacity of transnational organized criminal groups to undermine safety and security and State authorities was highlighted. To that end, Member States were encouraged to commit to funding regional institutions, such as the African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, and to effectively support efforts by Member States aimed at curbing crime, sharing best practices and lessons learned, and coordinating regional efforts, including developing the capacity of national institutions.

34. The Meeting identified the need to examine the links between transnational organized crime, terrorism and corruption, as well as trafficking in persons, smuggling of migrants, drug trafficking, arms trafficking, piracy, cybercrime, poaching, trafficking in game and wildlife trophies and other emerging forms of crime.

35. The Meeting called for technical assistance, to be provided by UNODC and other technical assistance providers, in dealing with aspects relating to transnational organized crime for those Member States that needed capacity-building of local authorities. While highlighting challenges linked to staff turnover and its negative effect on the sustainability of the impact of training sessions, training of trainers was mentioned as a good practice.

36. The Meeting recommended that all Member States be called upon to take into account requests for mutual legal assistance, including in the area of corruption, and to make sure that competent authorities could react to requests, since corruption caused a great drain on the resources of the State and undermined its authority.

37. The Meeting called upon Member States to maximize assistance and strengthen their capacity in the area of asset recovery and the restitution of such assets to their legitimate owners, in particular in relation to corruption.

38. The Meeting recommended that Member States that did not have adequate legislation or policies in place in the areas of mutual legal assistance and extradition be encouraged to speedily prepare and enact such legislation or policies, and to identify the potential need for assistance with regard to their implementation.

39. The Meeting recommended that Member States should be encouraged to amend their extradition legislation to deal not only with traditional forms of transnational organized crime, but also with new forms of crime that had a transnational element. The Meeting invited Member States to promote the use of electronically supported extradition.

40. The Meeting encouraged Member States to simplify their extradition procedures and requirements, revisit the application of the principle of non-extradition of nationals and extend the granting of extradition on the basis of dual criminality and reciprocity. It emphasized that laws should be harmonized within and among regions to avoid obstacles to extradition.

41. The Meeting highlighted the establishment of laboratories for forensic analysis as an effective practice for dealing with transnational organized crime and the new modi operandi of criminals.

42. The Meeting cited the establishment of national coordination committees to deal with transnational organized crime, including emerging forms of crime, as a good practice to implement integrated approaches and to support international cooperation and coordination.

43. The Meeting highlighted the need for data relating to transnational organized crime patterns and illicit financial flows on the African continent. The importance of data collection and the establishment of databases was stressed in that regard.

Workshop 2. Trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants: successes and challenges in criminalization, in mutual legal assistance and in effective protection of witnesses and trafficking victims

44. The Meeting highlighted the principle of shared responsibility among countries of origin, transit and destination, including the need to share information and provide technical assistance to those Member States which needed it, and encouraged continued regional and subregional cooperation in addressing trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants. Trafficking in persons should be addressed comprehensively, not only from the supply side but also from the demand side.

45. The Meeting stressed the difficulties in differentiating between trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants and the need to increase the capacity of law enforcement officials, including first responders and border officials, to identify victims of trafficking in persons, smuggled migrants, refugees and victims of other crimes in a context of mixed migration flows to ensure appropriate assistance to victims of crime, including victims of trafficking in persons.

46. The Meeting highlighted the need to have a better understanding of key concepts of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, to support criminal justice officials in distinguishing between trafficking in persons for labour exploitation and forced labour, trafficking in persons for sexual exploitation and the exploitation of the prostitution of others.

47. The Meeting underscored the importance of focusing on the human dimension of trafficking in persons and the need to adopt a human rights approach to ensure that victims of trafficking in persons were considered as such and were protected and not prosecuted for crimes committed as a result of being trafficked.

48. The Meeting referred to the need to raise awareness about the goods and/or services produced by victims of trafficking and to encourage destination countries to provide decent, predictable and legal means of delivering the required services. The Meeting also underscored the key role the private sector could play in supporting measures to counter trafficking in persons.

49. The Meeting encouraged Member States to develop cooperation, information exchange and technical assistance for Member States that did not have the means to deal with victims of trafficking in persons.

50. Particularly with regards to the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, Member States were encouraged to strengthen inter-agency coordination for a comprehensive approach to tackling that crime, involving all relevant national agencies, including those dealing with financial investigations, corruption, document forgery and border control.

51. The Meeting recommended that Member States consider analysing the links between trafficking in persons and other crimes, including organ trafficking, as well as poverty and armed conflict.

52. The Meeting encouraged Member States to ensure that they had legislation to criminalize trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants, in line with the Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants Protocols, that they could confiscate the proceeds of those crimes and that they had efficient mechanisms to arrest criminals.

53. The Meeting recommended that Member States that had victim protection and assistance programmes anchored in specific laws and policies should consider consolidating those programmes to provide more integrated and consistent assistance to victims of all crimes, especially victims of trafficking. Member States were encouraged to explore the possibility of developing provisions or mechanisms to deal with the voluntary return of victims of trafficking in persons.

3. Item 5 of the agenda of the Congress: comprehensive and balanced approaches to prevent and adequately respond to new and emerging forms of transnational crime

54. The Meeting emphasized the strong and worrying impact of new forms of transnational crime on the African continent. Financial crime had a particularly negative effect on the economies of African countries and their emerging financial and banking systems, while the counterfeiting of various products, including pharmaceuticals, endangered not only economies but also the health and security of African citizens. Environmental crime, including poaching, trafficking in wildlife, illegal fishing and illicit trafficking in fauna and flora, led to the depletion of natural resources by criminal groups and endangered unique species that were present on the continent. Maritime piracy and related kidnapping and ransoming were a regional and international security threat.

55. Against that background, the Meeting recommended that the Thirteenth Congress consider those emerging crimes as they affected the African continent, and mandate UNODC, in conjunction with the African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, to provide technical assistance, upon request, to Member States in the African region to strengthen, in line with the Organized Crime Convention, their operational capacity to respond to those crimes.

56. The Meeting recalled the potential of the Organized Crime Convention to deal with transnational organized crime in all its forms, including emerging forms, and provide a framework for Member States to harmonize their legislation and strengthen international cooperation.

57. The Meeting recommended that Member States review their national criminal, procedural and legal frameworks for the investigation and prosecution of new forms

of transnational crime, to avoid impunity and eliminate safe havens for such criminal conduct.

58. The Meeting invited Member States to consider in particular drafting legislation focusing on the protection of the environment, criminalizing any activity that damaged the environment and setting up measures to protect endangered species. In order to support such targeted legislation, Member States might set up specialized units to deal with environmental crime and ensure that awareness was raised and that law enforcement officers were professionally trained on responding to those crimes.

59. The Meeting recommended that Member States enhance national law enforcement, prosecution and judicial capacities, as well as inter-agency and cross-border cooperation in law enforcement and judicial matters.

60. The Meeting urged Member States to combat trafficking in organs, including by preventing and punishing "transplant tourism" and trafficking in persons for the purpose of organ removal, and to exchange experience in and information on preventing, combating and criminalizing such trafficking.

61. The Meeting requested the Thirteenth Congress to turn its attention to the issue of trafficking in organs and trafficking in persons for the purpose of organ removal.

62. The Meeting recommended that UNODC work at the regional level, through cooperation with existing regional institutions and national authorities, to support Member States in dealing with emerging forms of transnational organized crime, in particular through the development of regional networks.

63. The Meeting underscored the deleterious effects resulting from drug trafficking and the illicit export of cannabis and other drugs that affected the health of citizens and the public order of countries, and recommended that the approach of developing alternative development programmes also be considered with respect to illicit cannabis cultivation.

64. The Meeting also recommended that Member States cooperate with UNODC on a study on firearms, including small arms and light weapons, so that such a study was comprehensive and could guide policymakers to prevent and eradicate illicit trafficking in firearms, including small arms and light weapons.

65. Acknowledging the difficulties in dealing with evolving forms of crime, the Meeting recommended that development partners be called upon to provide technical, scientific and financial assistance at the bilateral or multilateral levels in a more predictable, effective and sustainable manner.

Workshop 3. Strengthening crime prevention and criminal justice responses to evolving forms of crime such as cybercrime and trafficking in cultural property, including lessons learned and international cooperation

66. The Meeting expressed concerns about the increased threat posed by cybercrime, including cyberattacks against national institutions and the private sector, and its links to terrorism and transnational organized crime.

67. Taking into consideration the complexity of cybercrime and its links to transnational organized crime, in particular terrorism, as well as the digital divide and the necessity for all States to cooperate to combat such crime, the Meeting recommended that Member States consider the development of a convention on cybercrime in the context of the Thirteenth Congress. The usefulness of such an instrument could include setting universal standards to support the gathering of evidence in cybercrime cases and the admissibility of such evidence in court.

68. The Meeting also recommended that a mechanism be set up under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to provide to Member States a sustainable forum where information and best practices could be exchanged, international cooperation strengthened, awareness-raising and technical assistance programmes developed and the organization of international conferences discussed.

69. Taking into consideration the crucial matter of the protection of cultural heritage, the Meeting recommended that Member States consider developing an international convention to address trafficking in cultural property, following the format of the Organized Crime Convention and the Convention against Corruption. The Meeting also recommended that information be shared at the Thirteenth Congress on existing practices and experiences at the national and international levels.

70. The Meeting recommended that Member States develop, implement and harmonize legislation, as well as adopt comprehensive strategies, in response to the problems relating to trafficking in cultural property, cybercrime, poaching and trafficking in game and wildlife trophies, in order to further strengthen the prevention of such crimes, as well as their investigation, prosecution and adjudication, and to further strengthen international cooperation. Moreover, the Meeting highlighted the need to share practices and experiences in dealing with those crimes at the national and regional levels. The Meeting underscored the particular threat posed by conflicts to the protection of cultural heritage. It emphasized the need for legislation and measures to be regularly reviewed and revised to reflect new developments in information and communications technologies.

71. The Meeting recommended that Member States intensify regional and international cooperation, including by exchanging information and cooperating in the area of technical assistance, particularly assistance targeted at investigating cybercrime. In view of the current lack of data, the Meeting recommended that UNODC carry out an in-depth study of cybercrime and communicate comprehensive data and information to Member States.

72. The Meeting acknowledged that some States had identified as good practices the establishment of specialized units that dealt with cybercrime and trafficking in cultural property, while keeping in mind their links with other forms of transnational organized crime, and the establishment of specialized courts to deal with those crimes. The Meeting invited companies working in logistics services or in industry to cooperate in combating such crime.

73. The Meeting recommended that crime prevention programmes and financial and technical assistance be provided to States involved in conflicts.

4. Item 6 of the agenda of the Congress: national approaches to public participation in strengthening crime prevention and criminal justice

74. The Meeting recognized the importance of public participation in strengthening crime prevention, and underlined in particular the relevance of raising public awareness, preventing victimization and raising public confidence in criminal justice through a more efficient response by the criminal justice system.

75. The Meeting highlighted the importance of early prevention efforts and prevention measures targeting and using the full potential of families, schools and religious institutions to address the social and economic root causes of crime, such as poverty, unemployment, lack of adequate housing and lack of access to education. The important role of faith-based organizations in preventing crime and radicalization was stressed in that regard. Member States were encouraged to use urban planning and measures to enhance living conditions as part of a comprehensive approach to crime prevention.

76. The Meeting stressed the relevance of neighbourhood and community policing that involved working closely with citizens in identifying solutions for the prevention of crime and violence, in particular in vulnerable communities. That was viewed as particularly crucial in situations in which the State and the police needed to regain the trust of communities.

77. The Meeting encouraged Member States to build upon existing practices and measures to encourage the public, especially in remote areas, to report and follow up on incidents of crime, including corruption. Good practices included mechanisms such as hotlines and mobile offices for the public to report crime and formulate requests or complaints to be followed up by the competent authorities.

Workshop 4. Public contribution to crime prevention and raising awareness of criminal justice: experiences and lessons learned

78. The Meeting highlighted the importance of a comprehensive crime prevention strategy focusing on primary, secondary and tertiary prevention, based on the models of "social prevention" and "situational prevention".

79. The Meeting recommended that, in the implementation of crime prevention activities, Member States should ensure effective citizen participation through partnerships with local communities. In that regard, Member States were invited to consider establishing multidisciplinary committees at the local level and developing mechanisms of online collaboration to enable broader participation. Measures to train and build the capacity and the know-how of all of the different stakeholders were another crucial element of effective approaches to crime prevention.

80. The Meeting underlined the important role that civil society, the private sector and the media had to play in contributing to effective crime prevention, as well as the fundamental role of education and youth participation. Member States were invited to pay particular attention to the prevention of juvenile delinquency and victimization of children.

81. The Meeting underlined that public education and awareness-raising measures should make use of traditional mass media, as well as new and social media. To dissuade potential criminals, such measures should focus on the dangers posed by

criminal activities to the social and economic development of countries and societies at large, as well as on the consequences of engaging in crime.

82. The Meeting recommended that awareness-raising measures should convey key values, like respect for human life, hard work and merit, as well as common values shared by many African societies, such as the central role of the family. Member States were invited to acknowledge the usefulness of and rely upon forums in which communities came together and strengthened their ties.

B. Other issues

83. The representative of Qatar, the host country of the Thirteenth Congress, gave a presentation on the state of progress with regard to all actions required for timely and efficient preparations for the Congress. In particular, he illustrated the web page dedicated to the Thirteenth Congress (www.moi.gov.qa/unecpcjdoha/english). The Meeting expressed its warm thanks to Qatar for the huge efforts made for the efficient preparation of the Congress.

84. The observer for the International Scientific and Professional Advisory Council of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme delivered a presentation on the arrangements to be made, and the facilities to be available, for the organization of the ancillary meetings during the Thirteenth Congress.[1]

85. The representative of the World Health Organization (WHO) Framework Convention on Tobacco Control presented the provisions and monitoring system of the Convention, in force since February 2005, and of the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products, which built upon and complemented article 15 of the Convention (Illicit trade in tobacco products).

86. The observer for the African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders presented a report on the activities of the Institute and the challenges it faced, emphasizing that the Institute could, if provided with sufficient resources, serve as a forum for Member States to exchange best practices in the criminal justice area.

87. The observer for the Terre des Hommes fédération internationale informed the Meeting of the organization of the World Congress on Juvenile Justice, to be held in Geneva from 26 to 30 January 2015, bringing together representatives of Member States and civil society with a view to improving the implementation of international standards on juvenile justice.

88. The observer for the International Society for Criminology drew the attention of the Meeting to its global activities to promote a better understanding of crime and criminology through its worldwide congresses, which served as forums for learning and discussion. She advocated for the establishment of databases and the strengthening of international cooperation to combat transnational organized crime and cybercrime.

[1] Further information is available from www.un-congress.org.

III. Attendance and organization of work

A. Date and venue of the Meeting

89. The African Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice was held in Addis Ababa from 9 to 11 April 2014.

B. Attendance

90. The following member States of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) were represented at the Meeting: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Central African Republic, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Libya, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sudan, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania and Zimbabwe.

91. Belarus and Qatar were represented by observers at the Meeting.

92. The following United Nations entities were represented by observers: UNODC and ECA.

93. The following institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network were represented by observers: African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, and International Scientific and Professional Advisory Council.

94. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented by observers: INTERPOL, LAS and WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control.

95. The following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council were represented by observers: Terre des Hommes fédération internationale, Women's Right to Education Programme and World Society of Victimology. The International Society for Criminology was also represented by an observer.

96. A list of participants was circulated at the Meeting as document A/CONF.222/RPM.4/INF/2.

C. Opening of the Meeting

97. The Meeting was opened on 9 April 2014 by John Sandage, Director of the Division for Treaty Affairs of UNODC, who delivered a statement on behalf of the Executive Director of UNODC. He recalled that a global period of reflection on the Millennium Development Goals was under way, involving political and business leaders and development practitioners. He explained that there had been a growing realization that transnational and serious organized crime and weak rule of law were major threats to social and economic development, and that they had hindered and challenged the governance systems of States and their ability to make progress in attaining the Goals. He emphasized that the recognition of the rule of law as both an outcome and an enabler of development would represent a significant advance in the development discourse.

98. The Director of the Division for Treaty Affairs explained that UNODC was taking an integrated approach through its worldwide network of field offices, helping to mainstream crime and justice issues into the development agenda. The major role played by the crime congresses in driving discussion around current challenges was highlighted, as was giving States an opportunity to debate international standards and policy relating to crime prevention and criminal justice.

99. An opening statement was made by the Chair of the Meeting, Maryann Njau-Kimani of Kenya, upon her election. A minute of silence was observed in memory of the UNODC staff members that had been killed during their mission to the Puntland region of Somalia.

100. The Secretary of the Meeting recalled how the theme of the Thirteenth Crime Congress and its agenda items and workshops had been carefully identified and adopted by the General Assembly with a view to mainstreaming the work and deliberations of the Congress, the only global conference on crime prevention and criminal justice issues, into the overall United Nations post-2015 development agenda. In that regard, she highlighted how the theme of the Congress and its substantive items and workshops were closely interconnected so as to feed each other in an upstream-downstream relationship. With a view to reflecting that close connection between the substantive items and the topics of the workshops, it was proposed to cluster the discussion as follows:

(a) Item 3 (Successes and challenges in implementing comprehensive crime prevention and criminal justice policies and strategies to promote the rule of law at the national and international levels, and to support sustainable development) would be discussed together with workshop 1 (Role of the United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice in support of effective, fair, humane and accountable criminal justice systems: experiences and lessons learned in meeting the unique needs of women and children, in particular the treatment and social reintegration of offenders);

(b) Item 4 (International cooperation, including at the regional level, to combat transnational organized crime) would be discussed together with workshop 2 (Trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants: successes and challenges in criminalization, in mutual legal assistance and in effective protection of witnesses and trafficking victims);

(c) Item 5 (Comprehensive and balanced approaches to prevent and adequately respond to new and emerging forms of transnational crime) would be discussed together with workshop 3 (Strengthening crime prevention and criminal justice responses to evolving forms of crime such as cybercrime and trafficking in cultural property, including lessons learned and international cooperation);

(d) Substantive item 6 (National approaches to public participation in strengthening crime prevention and criminal justice) would be discussed together with workshop 4 (Public contribution to crime prevention and raising awareness of criminal justice: experiences and lessons learned).

D. Election of officers

101. At its 1st meeting, on 9 April 2014, the Meeting elected by acclamation the following officers:

Chair:	Maryann Njau-Kimani (Kenya)
Vice-Chair:	Nabil Hattali (Algeria)
Vice-Chair:	Omer Ahmed Mohamed Ahmed (Sudan)
Vice-Chair:	Pierre Nicolas Biao (Benin)
Rapporteur:	Lillian L. Mashaka (United Republic of Tanzania)

E. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

102. Also at its 1st meeting, the Meeting adopted its provisional agenda (A/CONF.222/RPM.4/L.1), which read as follows:

1. Opening of the Meeting.
2. Election of officers.
3. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
4. Substantive items on the agenda of the Thirteenth Congress:
   (a) Successes and challenges in implementing comprehensive crime prevention and criminal justice policies and strategies to promote the rule of law at the national and international levels, and to support sustainable development;
   (b) International cooperation, including at the regional level, to combat transnational organized crime;
   (c) Comprehensive and balanced approaches to prevent and adequately respond to new and emerging forms of transnational crime;
   (d) National approaches to public participation in strengthening crime prevention and criminal justice.
5. Topics to be considered by workshops within the framework of the Thirteenth Congress:
   (a) Role of the United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice in support of effective, fair, humane and accountable criminal justice systems: experiences and lessons learned in meeting the unique needs of women and children, in particular the treatment and social reintegration of offenders;
   (b) Trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants: successes and challenges in criminalization, in mutual legal assistance and in effective protection of witnesses and trafficking victims;

(c) Strengthening crime prevention and criminal justice responses to evolving forms of crime such as cybercrime and trafficking in cultural property, including lessons learned and international cooperation;

(d) Public contribution to crime prevention and raising awareness of criminal justice: experiences and lessons learned.

6. Recommendations for the Thirteenth Congress.

7. Adoption of the report of the Meeting.

103. At the same meeting, the Meeting approved its organization of work. The list of documents before the Meeting is contained in the annex to the present document.

IV. Adoption of the report and closure of the Meeting

104. At its 5th meeting, on 11 April 2014, the Meeting considered and adopted its report, as orally amended.

Annex

List of documents

A/CONF.222/PM.1	Discussion guide
A/CONF.222/RPM.4/L.1	Provisional agenda and annotations
A/CONF.222/RPM.4/L.2	Draft report